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"WHEELER CROFT"

*Delphiniums
Japanese Iris
and Violas*

AMETHYST

See page 4

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WHEELER CROFT



INTO these Delphiniums have gone twelve years of patient work, of waiting, of hopes, of dreams. Years of selection and cross pollination by hand. Years of study of the laws of inheritance. Back of these were the long years of study of biology and botany, of the exacting methods of science.

The Wrexhams, the Hoodacres, the Blackmore and Langdon strains, the Lyondels, went into these Delphiniums. Years of selection and crosses by hand has brought a strain—the Wheeler Croft—that has certain characteristics of its own: It has great vigor of growth with many spikes of stiff wiry stalks that are not easily broken. Some grow around four feet and others seven and nine feet in height. The flower spikes are from two feet to fifty-eight inches of bloom, carrying laterals from twenty-four to forty-three inches long, with as many as twenty to a stalk. The flowers are from two and a half to three and a half inches across. They are evenly placed on the stalk so that each has its own space, making a solid spike that is not crowded or bunched anywhere. The flowers open all at one time or nearly so and open flat, with the centers set therein like jewels. The individual stems average between two and seven inches in length at the base of the spike.

There is also the Ranunculus type, which is fluffier, sometimes with a full rose like center.

The laterals are a great asset. They greatly prolong the blooming season and make the loveliest and most graceful sprays for cut flowers. The flowers are almost as large as those on the main spike.

And the colors: **Summer Sky, Pastel, Opal, Cobalt Blue, New Blue, Tapestry Blue, Navy Blue, Gentian Blue, Crater Lake Blue, Alice Blue, Blue Batik, Blue Lake.**

Rainbow, Sunrise, Violet, Orchid, Cornflower Blue, Venetian Nights, Tokay, Desert Twilight, Amethyst, Painter's Dream, Mountain Shadows, Purple Shadows, Royal Purple, Royal Velvet, Claret, Shot Silk, and Burgundy.

CULTURE: Good loose soil, plenty of lime or ground shell and wood ashes, good commercial fertilizer or well-rotted cow manure, and a mulch. I use a heavy mulch of rotted leaves over the ground after it has been spaded, with shell or lime to counteract the acidity. This tends to hold the moisture and keep the ground from baking. I have a heavy clay soil into which has gone much sand, leaf mold, bone meal, and a reasonable amount of high grade commercial fertilizer. My Delphiniums are not heavily fertilized. It is my wish to grow them under average conditions so that you can grow them in your garden as I grow them in mine.

T DELPHINIUMS

A NEW STRAIN of WHITE DELPHINIUMS — THE SNOWFLAKE STRAIN— white and pure like their name, with flowers two and a quarter inches to three and one-half inches across. Sturdy growth, spikes twenty-four to forty-three inches long, with long graceful laterals. This strain is the result of years of Hand Pollination, of the most rigid selection. In my garden, out of eighty plants from **WHEELER CROFT HAND POLLINATED WHITE SEED** there were only seven blue ones, that were all very light blue. This crop of flowers was crossed by hand to bring you and me bigger and better ones than these. It has steadily improved through the years. It is now the best obtainable.

SNOWFLAKE. A short spike not over two feet long, with laterals around fifteen inches. But the flowers are three and one-half inches, snow white, with a cream center, very double. They are of sturdy growth and medium height. The most beautiful white delphiniums that I have ever seen. **Very limited stock of seed.**

WHITE STAR. This grows tall, with very long laterals. It has a long, loose spike with three inch flowers of the double anemone type. Light cream center. Beautiful, graceful, numerous laterals. Pure glistening white. Strong growth. This was crossed with Snowflake to give very choice seed.

WHITE SPIRE. Three foot spike of double white flowers. Snow white on a well developed spike. Flowers over two and a half inches. Three foot laterals. Crossed with White Star and Snowflake for the benefit of all. **Seed only.**

SNOW QUEEN. Forty-three inch spike of very perfect snow white flowers, double, with cream centers. Flowers over three inches, with individual stems of six inches at the base of the spike. Very strong growth, tall, around seven feet. Anemone type of flowers. Crossed with Snowflake for greater beauty. **Seed only.**

BLACK-EYED BRIDE. Pure white flowers with a beautiful black center. Graceful spikes with numerous laterals. Seven to nine stalks to a plant. Perfect placement of two and three-quarter inch flowers. Crossed with others of the black-eyed type for improvement. **Seed only.**

Packet \$2.00; 5 trial packets, one of each white variety, \$5.00.



WHEELER CROFT HYBRID DELPHINIUMS

QUANTITY OF HAND POLLINATED SEED VERY LIMITED.

Trial packet of any variety listed or of mixed varieties, \$1.00.

All plants listed are two years old.

Collection of 12 mixed seedling plants, \$2.00.

PINK DELIGHT. NEW SHADE. Distinct. Self-color. Delicate pink mauve.

There is no trace of blue in the 3½-inch flowers, with their pale fawn centers.

Tapering spike. Long, numerous laterals. Vigorous, sturdy plants. These are the progenitors of a new color range in delphiniums. Seed only. \$5 per pkt.

ALICE BLUE. A softer, duller shade of New Blue. Light and airy, giving iridescence and charm. A shade that is very popular for house and bridal decorations. Plants 50 cents each. Seed.

AMETHYST. These are lovely; long perfect spikes, flat open double flowers, perfect placement, light and dark centers. Back of the amethyst petals is a row of blue ones. These are almost covered by the amethyst petals so that the effect is one of solid deep amethyst. Most aristocratic. You can see that this is one of my favorites. Plants \$1.00 each, and seed.

BLUE BATIK. A deep, medium blue double that has touches and shadings of orchid upon it, all blended and mixed. It comes mostly with white centers but may have tan or dark ones. A lovely color and very popular. Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.

BLUE LAKE. A deeper shade of vivid blue that I have tried so long to get and which has, at last, come to me. It still has orchid upon the upper petals but it is fainter and on some spikes does not occur. Eventually, I believe I can produce a straight Blue Lake double that will not have orchid. The 1936 crop may hold some of these. Seed only.

BURGUNDY. This is the dull wine color of burgundy. It is darker and deeper than amethyst but not quite so brilliant as royal purple. It is a very rich color; the stalks are stiff and tall; the flower spikes around four feet, the placement of flowers just right, the laterals long and lovely. Some of the ranunculus type occur in this color, being very double, with an unusual fluffy center. Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.

CLARET. Light wine purple, very clear and rather a cold color. Very large flowered with long laterals. Anemone type of flowers. It is

a new shade from the royal purple and has been crossed to bring some novelties. Seed only.

COBALT BLUE. A deep, vivid, sparkling shade of blue, true to its name. It may have light or dark centers and is equally charming in both. It has but the faintest touch of orchid and is visible in any garden a long way off. It is crossed with its own color and with other shades to give them its sparkle and joy. Plants 50 cents each. Seed.

CORNFLOWER BLUE. This is a cornflower blue double with petals that open very flat with the edges turning back a little. It gives a rare and lovely effect. Long spikes with long, very perfect laterals. The upper petals have some orchid. Some day I will have this blue without the orchid. I have a few plants of this now and offer some seed. I have tried for years to get this. Flowers almost three inches. Seed only.

CRATER LAKE BLUE. This is the most vivid and loveliest shade of blue—the blue of Crater Lake at sunset. A white center and a tone of velvet upon the petals. Flowers two and a half inches. This color has great possibilities and I will not have enough seed to fill the demand. Seed only.

DESERT TWILIGHT. This is a double, with dark centers only. It gives a solid effect of the most delicate mauve. It fades and glows and charms. Flowers over three inches, very long laterals, perfect placement, lovely centers. One of the most beautiful Wheeler Croft Delphiniums. Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.

GENTIAN BLUE. This has occurred for the first time this year. A forty-three inch spike of flowers, long laterals, flowers two and seven-eighths inches across, of the deepest Gentian blue, with touches of royal purple. Seed only.

ENQUIRIES INVITED FOR SEED AT WHOLESALE TO DEALERS

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS. Double, long spikes, perfect placement of flowers. Flowers over three inches usually. Long laterals. It is a most gorgeous mauve over blue. It is soft and glowing, a much deeper shade than Desert Twilight and one of my best. **Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.**

NEW BLUE. A soft shade of deep, medium blue; one of the most attractive shades in delphiniums, charming and appealing. It is softer than azure blue but in the same tones. **Plants 50 cents each. Seed.**

OPAL. A large flowered single with the tones and colors of Australian Opals. It has a deep tan center set in flowers three and one-half inches across. It has vigor, long laterals, and an irresistible appeal. I cross it in its own color and with Cobalt Blue, and with New Blue, to get new tones and types as well as more of the same kind. **Seed only.**

ORCHID. Light orchids over light blues. Very perfect doubles, largest flowers, very long laterals, attaining great perfection of color and flowers. Both light and dark centers. The upper petals often have an edging of blue that is most attractive. **Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.**

PAINTER'S DREAM. This Delphinium is distinctive. It is double with rather narrow petals that turn and twist a trifle, rather ruffled. It has a tan center and is an almost indescribable blending of delicate mauve and blue. It does not have a spike over two feet long and very short laterals but it is of such beauty that every one who sees it, wants it. **Very limited stock of seed. No plants for sale now.**

PASTEL. This is palest orchid over light blue and gives an effect of the most delicate coloring. The stalks are stiff, the spikes long, with plenty of long laterals, the flowers perfectly placed; the centers may be brown, black, fawn, or cream. It has a distinction of its own and is a lovely contrast to the more vivid colors. It has but lately occurred in my garden and is a worthy addition. **Plants, \$1.00 each and seed.**

PURPLE SHADOWS. A dark blue double with both light and dark centers. Over the dark blue are shades of royal purple. It is large flowered with perfect centers, long laterals, and loose spike. The blue is more prominent than the purple. It is very lovely. **Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.**

RAINBOW. This is the single blue and orchid flower that comes as large as three and one-fourth inches, has spikes up to fifty-eight inches in length, laterals over three feet long, and a long blooming period. It starts to bloom first and is still blooming with the later varieties. It has developed from one of the palest and poorest flowered delphiniums which had the constitution of its wild ancestry, into a Cinderella of the delphinium world. **Plants 50 cents each. Seed.**

ROYAL PURPLE. This is one of my most beautiful delphiniums. I have worked a long time to improve it. Spikes run almost four feet, wide at the bottom and tapering to a spire. They come in both light and dark centers; they are perfectly placed on the stalk and are flat, wide open, with centers like jewels. The laterals are around three feet with flowers almost as large as those on the main spike. A stalk may have as many as twenty laterals. It is a vigorous grower with four to seven spikes to a plant. Flowers run two and a half to three and a quarter inches. **Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.**

ROYAL SPIRES. Forty-five inch spikes of perfectly placed, flat, wide open double flowers nearly three inches across of soft, dull burgundy. The centers are of the same color with faint cream bands. Two and one-half foot laterals. Vigorous growth, around six feet in height. Crossed with its own color, with burgundy and with amethyst to bring new beauties to your garden and mine. **Seed only.**

ROYAL VELVET. This is a brighter shade of royal purple with a sheen of velvet upon the petals. Very flat, wide open flowers, with both light and dark centers, sparkling and beautiful. Short spikes but I have crossed it with longer spikes to correct this. No plants for sale. **Limited seed.**

SUMMER SKY. This is a clear azure blue single; the blue of the summer sky. Sparkling, beautiful, enchanting. It is crossed by hand with its own color so that a majority of its progeny may have this lovely color. It has long laterals and long spikes of bloom with very tough stems. It has white or fawn centers. **Seed only.**

SUNRISE. This is a delphinium that I have worked years to get and now I have some very beautiful ones that have long, perfect spikes nearly four feet of flowers, almost three-foot laterals, and three-inch flowers. It is double; a blushing mauve upon azure back petals, with light gold centers or delicate fawn ones or deep gold beauties. It is very lovely. **Plants \$1.00 each. Seed.**

TAPESTRY BLUE. A deep old blue, with orchid tones, with all the charm and distinction of the soft colors of old tapestries. It is nearly always single, very large flowered, grows tall, and gives a different tone to the garden. **Plants 50 cents each. Seed.**

VENETIAN NIGHTS. A deep brilliant blue, dark and lovely; sparkling white center. It is double with only a little mauve upon it. This is the result of another long battle not yet won but coming. It has very long beautiful laterals and the flowers turn back with a slightly ruffled effect. **Very limited quantity of seed.**

VIOLET. I have a dark one that is pure, deep violet and some very intriguing lighter shades of the same color. These are very promising and will have only seed to sell for some time.

VIOLAS



VIOLAS. One of the loveliest perennials. Easily grown, requiring little care, unregardless of frequent moving, blooming joyously and exuberantly from six to eight months of the year, these are among the loveliest flowers that can be grown in your gardens.

Violas are perfectly adapted for ground covers around lilies or any other tall perennial that has little foliage near the ground.

They are lovely in beds by themselves, in masses of one color; and in the hardy border, in front of the taller growing plants. They make a mass of one color that is a joy and a relief that one can have an ever-blooming flower that is so little trouble.

They make the most beautiful edgings along paths and around beds. During the season, I can look out of my window and see the wide ribbon of violet purple that my Jersey Jewel makes around my beds of Japanese Iris. Not the least of my joy is that it will be there until the heavy frost of fall. I have only to water them occasionally, pick them now and then, and enjoy them. Put on a two inch mulch of peat moss in July to keep the roots cool and moist during the hot season and to protect them during the winter. The old growth should be cut back at the end of the first blooming season, usually in July, giving the new growth at the center a chance. It is the new growth which continues the bloom. They like a deep rich soil, bone meal, sheep guano, leaf mold, rotted cow manure, or any good fertilizer that is not too strong. They like sun but need a mulch to keep them from drying out too fast. Light shade is very satisfactory and some growers always recommend it.

MAGGIE MOTT. Flowers over two inches across, of a most lovely lavender shade that is very uncommon. Beautiful cut flower. Each **35c**, \$3.00 per dozen.

JERSEY JEWEL. Compact in growth, vigorous in constitution, generous in bloom, a rich violet purple in color, with a velvet sheen upon the petals, it is one of the most gorgeous and lovely of violas. Flowers around two inches, on stems four to seven inches. Each **25c**, \$2.00 per dozen.

JERSEY GEM. A most satisfactory viola. Large flowers of a pure violet, slightly perfumed, on long stems, from early spring to late fall. Lovely cut flower. Each **25c**, \$2.00 per doz.

WHEELER CROFT No. 1. One of my originations. Larger and bluer than the Jersey Jewel, it is of low, spreading, compact growth, very well adapted for banks and rock gardens. It likes sun and blooms earlier and later than most violas. Very hardy. Each **35c**, \$4.00 per dozen.

WHEELER CROFT No. 3. This is a seedling that came from a cross that I made between a white viola and the Jersey Gem. It is a lovely grey blue, larger than the Jersey Gem but not so long stemmed. Its growth is just the same, compact and every shoot rooted. It will grow very well in full sun

but the color holds better in light shade. It blooms early, consistently, and late. So far, it has seeded so little that I have not been able to test them. All plants from cuttings and root divisions. **Each 50c**, \$5.00 per dozen. Stock of both originations limited.

WHEELER CROFT WHITE. Milk white, it is a most generous and almost continuous bloomer. The jaunty, dainty flowers are carried on long stiff stems, 7 to 9 inches in length. With some foliage, the stems can be cut as long as 12 inches. Very good keeper and does not bruise easily. Gay and charming, it is a wonderful florist variety. Each **50c**, \$5.00 doz.

PRIDE OF VICTORIA. This is cousin to Maggie Mott but is a clear, deep violet color. The large flowers of good substance are carried on very long stems. A vigorous grower, an exuberant bloomer, the unusual color of the flowers, make it one of the loveliest violas that I know. Each **35c**, \$4.00 per dozen.

MOSELEY'S PERFECTION. Large flowers of a deep, clear, bright yellow. A good grower and remarkable bloomer. It is the best yellow that I have seen and contrasts beautifully with the blue, red purple, and violet shades. Stocky plants. Limited stock. Each **35c**, \$4.00 per dozen.

LILIES OF THE VALLEY

The large variety. Stems seven to nine inches long. Rich soil. Bone meal, sheep guano, leaf mold, combine with lots of water during the blooming season, to produce the blooms of a beauty to charm the eye. They will grow well in sun but do best in light shade. Pips, **3c** each in lots of 50 or more; **5c** each in lots of less than 50.

WHEELER CROFT JAPANESE IRIS

Japanese Iris are at home in informal gardens and also they lend themselves to the most rigid and clear-cut formal gardens and bestow upon them form, charm, a most delicate and enchanting beauty, an exquisiteness of texture, and a beauty that is gorgeous and imperious. The large flowers carried well above the foliage, on long stiff stems that never need support, have a commanding air wherever they grow.

The colors run from the most lovely white to innumerable tones of lavender, blue and violet; from delicate mauve grey to mauve, rose, claret, royal purple; from palest orchids to lovely pinks; from palest blues, amethysts, Alice blues to that deep dark purple with the blue black sheen upon it. And, too, others with veinings, splashings, borders of contrasting colors, bringing to the garden a beauty peculiar and individual unto themselves; gorgeous and richly colored, stately, strong, yet with a fragile and delicate loveliness.

These are native to the marshes. They like plenty of water, very rich acid soil, sunshine, good drainage, and leaf mold. Aluminum sulphate, about a table-spoon to a medium sized clump, will aid bloom. I use a heavy mulch of rotted leaves and find it very satisfactory.

BLUE DANUBE. A great triple flower of deep marine blue, wide gold bar, with three twisted and rippled center petals, giving an enchanting wavy appearance. **Each \$1.00.**

DREAM. Three enormous white petals, with the faintest of blue veining. Rose purple standards. One of the most beautiful Japanese Iris in cultivation. Words cannot really describe its true beauty. **Each 50c.**

ELEANOR PARRY. Deep, dark velvety mauve. Clear color, lovely gold bar. One of the best growers and bloomers. **Each 50c.**

FANNY HAMLET CHILDS. Double, very large wavy flower of rose purple, splotched with white. Very unusual. Beautiful gold bar. **Each 50c.**

FASCINATION. Double, pale grey with blue splotches in the center of the petals. Tinge of pink over all. Wide gold bar. **50c.**

GRACE SPERLING. Single, Hortense violet with lighter stigmas. The petals are wide and flat and the color is most intriguing. A very rare color among flowers. **Each 50c.**

JOSEPHINE HEYWOOD. Three immense petals of pale orchid with a purple sheen. Wide, pale gold bar. Exquisite. **50c.**

ORCHID. Three large petals of a most beautiful pink orchid color. Wide pale gold bar. Flat. Very unusual color. **Each 50c.**

ROYAL PURPLE. An enormous double flower of pure royal purple, deep gold bar. Very striking in a garden. **Each 50c.**

LAVENDER BEAUTY. Double, flat, very large flower of rose lavender. Good bloomer, vigorous grower, one of the best. **Each 50c.**

WAVES ON MOONLIGHT. Six petals of lovely cream white, with a vivid gold bar in the throat of each one, guarded by the narrow center ones of white, it forms a perfect picture. The petals have a roll, a turn that gives the most entrancing effect. **Each 50c.**

"WHEELER CROFT"

AGNES A. WHEELER • PLANT BREEDER

Delphiniums • Japanese Iris • Violas

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